

County Housing Program Gets the Lead (Paint) Out

Grant Pays for Hazard to Be Removed From Homes

When Claudia Martinez saw the workers put on white protective suits and cover her floor and furniture with plastic sheeting, it drove home just how great a danger lead-based paint could pose to her family.

Martinez, a preschool teacher who lives in National City with her three children, is participating in a County program that aims to make her home safer.

The Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Program is run by the County Department of Housing and Community Development.

Last month, construction workers removed flaking lead-based paint from the interior and exterior of her home, and put down a thick coat of new paint to make sure the lead would not endanger the health of her children.

"I feel very grateful that we have these



Worker prepares a National City home for removal of lead-based paint.

types of programs in our community. They're making our homes safer for our children. I just think it's wonderful," said Martinez.

The lead-paint removal program is beginning its fourth year on a high note – funds from the original \$1 million federal grant are nearly gone, but HCD officials have landed a new \$674,000 grant.

HCD's goal for the first grant was to make 63 homes safe from lead paint, and

the program exceeded that goal by taking care of 76 homes. The goal for the second grant is an additional 30 homes.

The program pays for testing the home to determine if there is a health hazard from flaking or chipping lead paint, blood tests for children who live in the home, and any work needed to make the home safe if a hazard is identified.

The program also pays, if necessary, to put the family up in a hotel while the work is completed.

"The whole idea is to build up as large a stock of homes free from lead-based paint as we possibly can," said Layla Fiske, manager of HCD's Special Programs Division.

In order for a home to qualify for the program, it must have been built before 1978, when lead-based paint was banned. A low-income family must live in the home, and there must be children under 6 who live there or visit often. The home can be occupied by its owners or tenants.

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Polinsky Scout Troop Boosts Girls' Spirits

Recycling, Scout Activities Provide Fun and Education

To the members of Girl Scout Troop 3907, recycling cans and bottles is a good idea all around – not only does it protect the environment, but it earns them some extra cash.

"It's like when you recycle you do a good deed and when you do a good deed, you get rewarded for it," said Klark, 11.

The opportunity is especially important for this particular Girl Scout troop, because its members face hurdles that most other girls never encounter – all of the members are residents of Polinsky Children's Center, the County's shelter for abused, neglected and abandoned children.

Klark and her fellow Girl Scouts feel

good that their efforts may help protect birds and other animals, and conserve space at local landfills. The recycling program also gives them a respite from the challenges of their own lives.

"It provides a community service opportunity for the youths," said Carol Buckley, a Polinsky social worker and leader of the fledgling Girl Scout troop. "It gets them out of themselves just a little, tiny bit."

Girl Scouts has been a part of Polinsky on and off over the years, but recently the program had become inactive. Last November, Buckley revived the troop. She said it gives the girls interesting, educational activities during their stay at Polinsky, and they can continue their involvement in the Scouts once they leave. Girls might stay at Polinsky for three or more months while they await their next placement.



Polinsky social workers Carol Buckley (seated), Carrie Gray (left), and Lisa Watkins show off the Troop 3907 banner.

Buckley, who is supporter of recycling, noticed that cans and bottles at Polinsky were ending up in the trash. She called

(continued on page 4)

NewsBriefs

Dog-Fighting Convictions

Three men were recently convicted of felony dog-fighting charges as the result of a six-month investigation by the Department of Animal Services. Two defendants were sentenced to a year in jail, while the third received probation. The men were arrested last spring when search warrants were served in San Marcos and Fallbrook. More than 20 dogs were seized along with dog-fighting paraphernalia. Dog fighting is a clandestine and brutal "sport" in which dogs are set against each other to fight, often to the death.

Scholarships Promote Self-Sufficiency

Fifteen residents of County-owned affordable housing in the South Bay got a boost on their road to greater self-sufficiency Sept. 16, when they were awarded academic scholarships by the Department of Housing and Community Development. The ceremony was held at Southwestern College, where most of the recipients are enrolled in classes. The awards were presented by Chairman Greg Cox, and also speaking were DCAO Alex Martinez, HCD Director Cathy Trout and Southwestern College Interim President Norma Hernandez. This was the third year HCD has offered the scholarship program. The program is funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Tax Program Seeks Volunteers

A program that helps low-income residents claim the federal Earned Income Tax Credit needs volunteers. The program is called Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, or VITA, and is administered by the County Health and Human Services Agency. The Board of Supervisors began the program last year as a way of helping low-income families claim the credit. Under the pilot program, 832 returns were completed, and \$626,000 in credits were claimed. This year, the Board expanded the program to additional sites in conjunction with community groups. Volunteers receive training in December or January, and must be available to assist with preparation of tax returns through April 15. For more information, contact Lorna Kindred at (619) 338-2729.

Assessor Opens New Digs

Assessor/Recorder/Clerk Greg Smith opened his department's new Kearny Mesa office to the public on Sept. 22, followed Oct. 2 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The office is at 9225 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. in a County-owned building. A wide range of services will be available, including parcel maps, various forms, copies of documents such as deeds and birth certificates, and civil wedding ceremonies. The hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. for marriage licenses, birth and death certificates and marriage ceremonies. The number is (858) 505-6262.



In Walt's Words

Learning CPR is Like a Gift to Others

I spent the day recently with a group of people who had a lot of heart. They were County employees who took a CPR/First Aid course offered by the Department of Human Resources.

The class was packed with information that could help the students save a life one day. It was especially gratifying to see how the people in the class were passionate about learning the material because of their strong desire to help others.

The CPR (cardio-pulmonary resuscitation) class is not new – the subject has been offered for years at the department level. The new twist is that DHR now coordinates the course, which is offered to employees Countywide. The classes are offered at least once a month, based on demand.

The one-day class was divided into three parts – basic CPR, operation of the automatic external defibrillator (AED) machine, and first aid. Everyone who completes the course receives a MEDIC First Aid (including CPR and AED) certificate.

Most of the students, including myself, were novices at CPR. However, when the time came, we did our best to deliver life-giving breaths of air and chest pumps to the mannequins laid out on tables in our classroom. We learned the "A-B-Cs" of what to do when encountering an unconscious person: checking their Airway, trying to tell if they are Breathing and searching for signs of Circulation.

We were also taught how to operate AED machines. The County has installed 177 of these devices at many different locations, including the County Administration Center, parks, libraries, courthouses and offices. The machines are amazing – with a minimum of training, anyone can effectively deliver a potentially life-saving shock.

During the First Aid portion of the class, we were taught how to stop bleeding, what to do with a fracture or broken bone, and how to treat someone for shock.

The County is a large organization, spread out over hundreds of square miles and many locations. The more of us who learn these skills, the better chance that someone will know what to do when a serious injury or illness occurs. As we were taught, the likelihood of survival for someone who suffers a heart attack drops by 7 to 10 percent for every minute they go without a shock from an AED machine.

I encourage all of you who are interested in this subject to take the class, with your supervisor's approval. It's lively and interesting, and it may allow you to help someone who is truly in need. To find out more about the class, the schedule and how to sign up, go to the Human Resources Intranet site at CWW and click on "Employee Development."

Thanks for reading, and have a heart-healthy month.

Walt

Walt Ekard
Chief Administrative Officer

The Supervisor's View



Awards Show We're On Track

By Supervisor Bill Horn

Part of an ongoing series by the Board of Supervisors.

It feels great to be on a winning team. You look forward to coming to work. You enjoy doing your best on the job. And then you feel good returning home, knowing you made a positive impact in the lives of others.

Recent news that the County of San Diego won two prestigious awards from the California State Association of Counties confirms that we remain on track and focused in serving the public. CSAC gave its Challenge Award for our General Management System (GMS).

GMS is a playbook for County managers and includes long-term goals, figuring out how to pay for

'Our game plan is solid... It's happening and you are part of a winning team.'

those goals and how to make needed adjustments along the way.

It was the second important award this year for the GMS. In April, the San Diego County Taxpayers' Association awarded its Grand Golden Watchdog Award for our GMS program.

The other CSAC award is for the County's Project Clean Water Annual Water Summit. It was one of 15 Merit Awards given by CSAC among California's 34 counties that submitted nominations.

This summer, San Diego County tied for fourth place in a national ranking of counties in delivering high quality online services to its citizens.

These online services include information for seniors, the disabled and their caretakers, emergency preparedness, employment, child care, public transportation, schools, libraries and hospitals.

Our game plan is solid. Every employee helps meet our goal of serving the public with the highest level of service. It's happening and you are part of a winning team.

On the right side of this page, there's a column called "Verbatim." In it are letters from satisfied customers served by county employees. It has been said that one letter at the federal level represents more than 1,000 similar opinions. I choose to think San Diego County's ratio is even higher.

I salute and thank each of our 18,000 employees. God bless you and let's keep on keeping on.

[Ver•ba•tim]

Letters from satisfied customers served by County employees.

David Baker (Treasurer-Tax Collector) received kudos from a woman for helping her straighten out problems related to her property taxes.

"It's not too strong a statement to say that Mr. Baker probably saved my sanity – and, according to a letter from the loan service servicing my mortgage – perhaps my house... He was courteous, pleasant and just generally everything you would want in a person handling a problem for you."

Teresa "Lupe" Aust (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was praised for helping a couple with the recorded documents related to their home.

"Thank you, Lupe, for doing your job so well but mostly for being your sweet self."

Terril Shewmaker (Treasurer-Tax Collector) was thanked for helping a man clear a tax lien from a property.

"I greatly appreciated Terril's help in clearing this matter, and hope that she is recognized for her excellent work. Thank you again for making my experience with the San Diego County Treasurer-Tax Collector office both enjoyable and highly efficient."

Bill Mickel (General Services) was thanked by an employee from Agriculture, Weights and Measures for his help with a remodeling project.

"We really appreciate the cooperation, the positive attitude, the excellent timing and the work you all have done for our remodel project. We look forward to working with you again in the future."

Kathleen Crissop (HHS) was praised by the son of a Medi-Cal recipient.

"Ms. Crissop made me feel very comfortable right from the start, and guided me through some problems I encountered in trying to get my documentation in order. I know people are quick to criticize, so I wanted to be quick to praise Ms. Crissop, and let you know what a great "face" she presents to the public."

Clara Tarantino (HHS) was thanked for her diligence and compassion in helping a woman apply for financial aid.

"Many, many thanks again and good luck in your life and in your future. I really, really appreciate what you're doing for us and for the people."

Check out the online version of County News for more Verbatim.

Lead Paint

(continued from page 1)

The program is intended to protect children by removing lead-based paint both from the home's interior and exterior. In either case, flaking or peeling paint could be picked up and eaten by small children, or they could breathe in paint that has deteriorated and turned to dust.

"It's not trying to make the home pretty, it's to make the home safe," said Sharon Ford, housing rehabilitation specialist with HCD.

If lead gets in the blood of small children, it can cause learning disorders and other serious health problems.

The new grant will cover homes in the unincorporated areas of the County, along with the cities of Imperial Beach, Lemon Grove, Poway, Solana Beach, Del Mar and Coronado. For more information, Ford can be reached at (858) 694-4825.

Martinez said it's a relief to know that her children, ages 2, 6, and 10, soon will be safe from the dangers posed by lead-based paint.

She said the information she has gained through the lead abatement program will benefit not only her family, but the families she works with in Head Start programs in the South Bay.

"This is a program that is definitely needed," she said.

NEWSMakers NEWSMakers



Remembering a Friend

On the first anniversary of Neil Rossi's passing, the County Board of Supervisors unveiled a plaque at the dedication of a memorial jacaranda tree in his honor on the north lawn of the County Administration Center. Rossi, Deputy Treasurer/Tax Collector, was remembered by the Board and many County officials, including CAO Walt Ekard. Rossi's family and friends, along with approximately 100 County employees, joined in the Sept. 16 celebration of his memory.

How to Get Rid of 'Universal Waste'

If you purchase, dispose of or otherwise manage "universal wastes" for the County, it's important to know how to properly manage them. The Department of Environmental Health is currently planning free workshops on "Universal Waste Regulations and Alternatives" for County staff.

Universal wastes are hazardous wastes that are very common and pose a lower risk

to people and the environment than other hazardous wastes. Examples include mercury thermostats, most batteries, fluorescent tubes, non-empty aerosol cans, mercury-containing devices, cathode ray tubes such as computer monitors, and many consumer electronic devices. For information on upcoming U-waste training opportunities, contact KariLyn Merlos of DEH at (858) 495-5799.

Jessica Eslinger of Public Works was awarded a Bronze Bernays Award of Excellence for the department's "DPW Update" newsletter from the Public Relations Society of America, San Diego Chapter.

John Sansone, County Counsel, was elected president of the California County Counsel's Association. He took over the post in September during the association's annual meeting in Sacramento.

Thomas Pastuszka, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors, accepted the Building of the Year Award, in the historical category, from the San Diego Building Owners and Managers Association for the renovation and improvements to the County Administration Center. Also receiving congratulations for the award were **Jim Browning**, Chief Deputy Clerk, **Frank Ortega**, Facilities Manager, and the members of the Clerk's facilities team.

Ellen S. Zyroff, Principal Librarian, has been elected by the membership of the American Library Association to the association's council.

The **County Television Network** won third place in the general excellence category by the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors.

Michael Stewart, Deputy Probation Officer, was married live on television on Sept. 27. Stewart and his fiancée, Erin Schwier, won KNSD Ch. 39's "Wedding Bells Chime on NBC 7/39 Presented by the Bridal Bazaar" contest.

Polinsky Scouts *(continued from page 1)*

around various County departments, and found out about the San Diego County Lunchroom Recycling Partnership, or SLURP.

SLURP is run by the Department of Public Works to encourage the recycling of aluminum, glass and plastic beverage containers. Grant funding pays for recycling bins, liners, cleaning kits and promotional materials such as posters, said Orelia DeBaal, recycling specialist with DPW.

A number of County departments participate in the program. After the items are collected, employees drop them off at a recycling center outside of work hours. The money can be used for employee parties, or donated to charity.

Once Buckley found out about the SLURP program, she thought it would be a good fit for the Girl Scout troop. Bins were set up in the residential cottages at Polinsky, and in staff lounges and lunchrooms. The girls collect the recycled cans and bottles, keep the bins clean, and turn in the materials to the recycling center.

So far, the troop has made one trip to the recycling center with about 12 bags full of cans and bottles, netting them \$19, which covered ice cream treats and a little left over for future activities.

In addition to recycling, Troop 3907 has a lot of activities both on and off the Polinsky campus, from excursions to Balboa Park to lessons on how to set up tents and build an "edible campfire" with pretzels and candy. "(Girl Scouts) helps the girls develop their potential," said Buckley.

If you have a skill or talent and would like to share it with the girls of Troop 3907, contact Carol Buckley at (858) 514-4878. For information on the SLURP program, contact Orelia DeBaal at (858) 874-4038.

County News is published for the 17,000 employees of the County of San Diego.

Board of Supervisors

Greg Cox, District 1
Dianne Jacob, District 2
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This information is available upon request in alternative formats for persons with disabilities.

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COUNTY NEWS *Extra*

Service Awards

Congratulations to County employees reaching the following milestones in September:

35 years

Burton R. Quick (Sheriff)

30 years

Brian A. Bonner (Chief Administrative Office)

Laurie S. Heikoff (Assessor)

Jacqueline K. Serrano (Assessor)

Sylvester Washington Jr. (Sheriff)

Rosalva Weston (District Attorney)

James F. Treece (Animal Control)

Richard D. Berg (Dept of Public Works)

Karel K. Hanson (Dept of Public Works)

Steven C. Allee (Dept of Environmental Health)

Edmund J. Labrado Jr (Health & Human Services)

Jeanne M. Papania (Health & Human Services)

Sunny Schade (Health & Human Services)

Kathryn R. Williams (Health & Human Services)

Nancy J. Taylor (Superior Court)

25 years

Linda C. Dunn (County Counsel)

Perla Zarate Juruena (Dept of Human Resources)

Kenneth J. Culver (Sheriff)

Michael D. Leathers (Sheriff)

Stephen G. Maxin (Sheriff)

Peter W. Morton (Sheriff)

James V. Piscitelli (Sheriff)

Raymond J. Rawlins (Sheriff)

Janet E. Ryzdyski (Sheriff)

George T. Ward (Sheriff)

Ted W. Snoddy (District Attorney)

Jeanette L. Day (Dept of Public Defender)

Linda Y. Gilkey (Dept of Public Defender)

Patricia J. Maldonado (Probation Dept)

John J. Carlson (Animal Control)

Mary A. Hoefert (Animal Control)

Katherine J. Reyna (Animal Control)

James L. Wright (Animal Control)

Raphael C. Carpenter (Dept of Public Works)

William A. Daenitz (Dept of Public Works)

Robert E. Giesick (Dept of Environmental Health)

Norman A. Welch (DGS-FAC Management ISF)

Ricardo V. Martinez (Fleet ISF-Maint/Support)

John A. Reiderer (Fleet ISF-Maint/Support)

Rajendra V. Dabholkar (Waste Water Management)

John M. Welch (Waste Water Management)

Norma C. Castrence (Health & Human Services)

Josefa M. Palmer (Health & Human Services)

James V. Priff (Health & Human Services)

Benilda P. Cabral (Superior Court)

Leslie K. Thompson (Superior Court)

Robert C. Williams (Air Pollution Control)

20 years

Susan D. Marientes (Assessor)

Miguel A. Baca (Sheriff)

Daniel W. Elkerton (Sheriff)

Julius T. Faulkner (Sheriff)

Jeffrey J. Hamm (Sheriff)

Daniel R. Laibach (Sheriff)

Joseph F. Luckinbill (Sheriff)

Denise M. McGehee (Sheriff)

Stanley D. Salazar (Sheriff)

Kirk I. Thomson (Sheriff)

Kimberly A. Van Abel (Sheriff)

Susan A. Van Housen (Sheriff)

Joel W. Wigand (Sheriff)

Julio Barrios (District Attorney)

Maria E. Escalante (District Attorney)

Brenda J. Payne (Dept of Public Defender)

Daniel M. Early (Probation Dept)

Barbara A. Kesanen (Probation Dept)

Cathy V. Neville (Agriculture Weights/Measures)

Marina M. Cataroja (Dept of Environmental Health)

Sherry L. Ceccanese (Health & Human Services)

Diane Culverson (Health & Human Services)

Rosanne Gaines-Frantz (Health & Human Services)

Brenda J. Howard (Health & Human Services)

Susan Donna Long (Health & Human Services)

Helen B. Priddy (Health & Human Services)

Merle Rupp (Health & Human Services)

Anita D. Jones (Superior Court)

Frieda McCurley (Superior Court)

County News Extra includes expanded information about and for County employees. If you have something you'd like considered for either *County News* or *County News Extra*, please contact the newsletter editor at (619) 595-4627 or e-mail at countynews@sdcounty.ca.gov. Items can also be faxed to (619) 595-4664 or mailed to MSA-359, Attn: *County News*.

Retirements

The San Diego County Employees Retirement Association reports the following employees recently retired:

Carson R. Alsbrooks (Sheriff)	Beatrice Hyman (Health & Human Services)	Suzanne M. Reed (Parks & Recreation)
Letenegus Araya (Auditor & Controller)	Herman V. Iglesias (District Attorney)	Karen L. Guthreau-Repke (Health & Human Services)
Janet L. Arman (Sheriff)	Alberto I. Ilagan (Sheriff)	William E. Ritter (District Attorney)
Michele A. Armbrust (Library)	Darnetta M. Key (Health & Human Services)	Catalina P. Santa Maria (Health & Human Services)
Nerisa G. Babaran (Health & Human Services)	Ruben C. Laserna (Auditor & Controller)	Elvia Saucedo (Land Use & Environment Group)
Elsie G. Beck (Sheriff)	Brenda R. Matthews (Sheriff)	Marlene Scott (District Attorney)
Tere L. Beckman (Medical Examiner)	Laurie J. Medina (Sheriff)	Pamela Sharpe (County Counsel)
Connie M. Berry (Superior Court)	Caralyn S. Melzer (Health & Human Services)	Phyllis A. Silver (District Attorney)
Mary Brewer (Health & Human Services)	David A. Merkle (Health & Human Services)	Virginia M. Stidum (Superior Court)
Jose Y. Castro (Sheriff)	Charles B. Miller (Superior Court)	Duane M. Wilkinson
Carol Crawford (Superior Court)	Joanne Millot (County Counsel)	Alan M. Crogan (Probation Department)
Sybil A. Davidson (Sheriff)	Renato A. Padama (Sheriff)	Paul H. Dean (Parks & Recreation)
Alvis L. Davis (Health & Human Services)	Irma R. Llagas-Parungao (Health & Human Services)	Alan C. Fulmer (Sheriff)
Bertha M. Dorsett (Health & Human Services)	Charles M. Perkins (Health & Human Services)	Sharon L. Gervais (Sheriff)
Siu C. Fan (Environmental Health)	Katherine Powell (Health & Human Services)	Constance R. Lehan (Sheriff)
David R. Gomez (Sheriff)		Wilfredo Mendoza (Probation Department)
Elizabeth M. Gross (Health & Human Services)		Bob Morris (Probation Department)
Sibyl Hanson (Treasurer-Tax Collector)		Jane Roush (Probation Department)

In Memoriam

Aubrey Ashley Jr (Sheriff, 1968)	8/03	Alma M. Raines (Sheriff, 1988)	8/03
Claire C. Bater (Tax Collector, 1968)	7/03	Sylvia O. Rose (Hospital, 1980)	8/03
Mae Bertko (Hospital, 1967)	8/03	Edward D. Schneider (DIS, 1993)	8/03
Helen I. Chilcote (Welfare, 1962)	7/03	Jessamine L. Squyres (Registrar of Voters, 1967)	7/03
Robert J. Delphenich (Sheriff, 1989)	8/03	William E. Straub Jr (Sheriff, 1978)	8/03
Jocelyn Evernham (Library, 1982)	7/03	Patricia B. Thomas (Public Works, 1987)	8/03
Belle A. Kitay (Assessor, 1974)	7/03	Robert W. Trotter (Public Works, 1990)	7/03
George T. Liddell (Auditor & Controller, 1976)	8/03	Richard J. Wack (Municipal Court, 1987)	7/03
Hisako Mathews (Planning & Land Use, 1990)	8/03		
Lauren K. Meredith (Welfare, 1978)	8/03		
Richard Nelson (Planning & Land Use, 1987)	7/03		
Dean L. Pittman (Welfare, 1978)	7/03		

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of active County employees Margaret J. Gloede (8/03), Magdalena M. O'Dell (7/03)

[Ver•ba•tim] *extra*

Tracy Watkins (General Services) received praise from the District Attorney's office for assistance in two of their cases.

"Ms. Watkins' efforts reflect favorably upon your department and the County of San Diego. Please convey our sincere gratitude and appreciation to her."

Sandra Hunter (HHS) was thanked for her help by a man who was applying for County Medical Services.

"At all times throughout the interview process she was courteous, polite and professional. She made me feel like a human being instead of a bunch of boxes that needed to be filled in."

Timothy Hancock (Probation) was thanked by a foster parent for his genuine concern and for helping a ward get back on track in school.

"My foster youth is doing well, thanks in part to the Probation Department and the outstanding job done by Mr. Hancock."

Susan Eichman (General Services) was thanked by a Sheriff's Department employee for her assistance.

"Susan was so sensitive to our situation, and bent over backwards for us. As a supervisor, I understand how nice it is to have good employees."

Jacqueline McElhaney (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for helping a woman deal with a problem with her unsecured property taxes.

"She was so understanding, courteous and listened to the full situation; then followed up, taking the situation to the next levels as necessary."

Natalie Rencher and **Jacqueline Ayala** (Library) received kudos for their assistance to the San Diego Workforce Partnership on potential collaborative opportunities.

"Ms. Rencher and Ms. Ayala have been open-minded, positive and capable partners, helping to develop tangible short- and long-term collaborative opportunities that will help us to promote life-long learning and career development."

Cresnel Irwin (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was thanked for providing outstanding customer service.

"On two occasions (the most recent was today) I have had the pleasure of receiving very professional and knowledgeable service from Mr. Irwin. Mr. Irwin is extremely informative, patient and friendly."

Warina Veronica Garmo (DEH) was praised for her handling of an asbestos contamination complaint at the downtown YMCA building.

"We wish there were many more public servants like you, Veronica. You have provided the entire world with a bright and shining example of what real government service should be."

Frances Quenga (Assessor/Recorder/Clerk) was commended for her assistance to a man who was trying to locate specific recorded documents.

"It is refreshing to find persons in civil service with such a helpful spirit as Ms. Quenga displayed. You are fortunate indeed to have her in your employ."

News Briefs Extra

Bringing the Court to the Streets

A new 30-minute documentary about the County's Homeless Court program debuted in late September on the County Television Network. "Homeless Court: Bringing the Court to the Streets" takes an up-close look at this ground-breaking program, which seeks to help homeless people surmount their legal problems and get back on their feet. The CTN show features interviews with homeless San Diegans, along with members of the County Public Defender's Office, judges, prosecutors and others who have made the Homeless Court program a national model. For schedule information, log onto www.ctn.org.

Fandango at Guajome

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the Vista's Rancho Guajome Adobe, a 22-room ranch house that became a County park in 1973. The rancho is now a national and state historic landmark, which is used for weddings, school field trips and many other activities. As part of the yearlong sesquicentennial celebration, a "Fandango at Guajome" was held on Aug. 2. The party included food, music, dancing and was attended by many local dignitaries, including Fifth District Supervisor Bill Horn. For information about upcoming activities, visit the Parks and Recreation Web site at www.sdcounty.ca.gov/parks